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TIME-SEQUENCE STUDIES OF  
COMBINATION 5-FLUOROURACIL AND  
RADIOTHERAPY IN A TRANSPLANTED  
ADENOCARCINOMA

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RICHARD P. SAIK,

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TIME-SEQUENCE STUDIES OF COMBINATION  
5-FLUOROURACIL AND RADIOTHERAPY IN A  
TRANSPLANTED ADENOCARCINOMA.

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Submitted as partial fulfillment for the  
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April, 1964



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DEDICATION :

To My Mother and Father



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## INTRODUCTION

From the time of the first attempts at cancer chemotherapy with nitrogen mustards introduced at Yale by Gilman in 1948 (13) many classes of compounds have been developed. Among these are the alkylating agents and antimetabolites as recently reviewed by Boyland (5), the anti-tumor antibiotics as reviewed by Arlin (2), and the folic acid antagonists reviewed by Jarniche (25). Despite the multiplicity of agents, only one drug, methotrexate, has resulted in five year regressions in only one tumor (choriocarcinoma in women (5)). All of these authors have further referred to the toxicity, potentially fatal, of most of the drugs at the doses that must be used for tumor regression. Recently interest has turned toward the use of the halogenated pyrimidines, summarized by Hersh (24) and Prusoff (29).

Within the last decade, the technical side of radiotherapy has rapidly progressed with the addition of greatly improved supravoltage x-ray machines generating 1 to 70 million electron volts and teletherapy with easily maintained cobalt 60 sources, plus the addition of isotope therapy (29). However, radiotherapy still is not a totally satisfying means of tumor therapy. Our attention has been drawn to the possibility of augmenting the effectiveness of radiation on the cell or sensitizing the cell to radiation by combination of x-ray with various chemical agents in the hope of increasing the therapeutic effect while holding toxic effects within acceptable levels. Furthermore, it has been our purpose to attempt to discover if an optimum time-sequence of administration exists in such combination regimens.



Work of 17 (14) has centered the field of combination therapy of the various chemical agents used, and particularly in regard to their increased susceptibility to x-ray without any effect of their own radiosensitivity and secondary radiators or radicals. Among the various agents discussed are the alkylating agents, oxethane and the purine derivatives while  $O_2$ , various dyes, and ascorbic acid are mentioned. Spence et al (35) used L-triiodothyronine in combination with 9500r x-ray on mouse breast tumors but noted no significant difference between combined therapy and x-ray alone. After an initial tissue edema, tumors did regress in size, but there was also an increase in the mortality from irradiation used in combination with the drug. Work has also been done using vasodilators (acetylcholine and tolazoline) with 2600r x-ray but only suggestive results. The expected oxygen effect has been shown (37). Attempts have been made by Goldin and Merton (15) to obtain therapeutic synergism (an effect greater than would be expected by adding the results of each therapy alone) by using the drugs together without x-ray. In most cases, toxicity as well as effectiveness was reduced, but some 'enhanced effectiveness' was obtained with 5-fluorouracil given in advance of aminopterin. Leuch (38) obtained rather long palliative effects with colloidal lead orthophosphate and x-ray in some neoplasms and with neostigmine and x-ray in multiple myeloma.

Kligerman (26) has evaluated some of the various chemicals that have been used in combination with x-ray and the evidence that exists for radio-sensitization. Included are the original studies of the Yale group on 5-iododeoxyuridine. Presently great interest is centered in the halogenated pyrimidine analogues. Garbatski (36) has demonstrated, and many others



5-fluorouracil, 5-fluorodeoxyuridine, and 5-fluorothymidine. The main problem in incorporation of these synthetic pyrimidines into strands of DNA is that the drug must be allowed so that the DNA molecules can incorporate the drug. Originally it was believed that substitution was needed in both strands to obtain a therapeutic effect. However, substitution in one strand does occur with single strand substitution. Thus some feel that it might be best to give the drug over several days to avoid this. Grybalski believes the DNA seems to be sensitized because of an intensive increase in radiation lability and a partial or complete loss of the DNA molecules' ability to undergo enzymatic or non-enzymatic repair. Roethlisberger (3) used 5-FU in vitro (with HeLa cells) and demonstrated that 5-FU alone could enhance the growth of the HeLa cells at low concentration, but if given four hours prior to 10-600r x-ray, a greater decrease in the number of cells was observed than with x-ray alone. A 1.4 greater effect of radiation by the addition of 5-FU was observed (3).

Clinically, great interest has turned to 5-Fluorouracil, a pyrimidine analogue synthesized by Heidelberger and co-workers (21-24). Because of its singular success as being one of the few drugs with any effect on solid tumors especially carcinomas of the breast, ovary, large bowel, rectum and hepatoma. Significant regression, unfortunately, is seen only when the drug is used at the toxic level. Extensive clinical and laboratory trials are now in progress on the use of 5-FU attempting to lower its toxicity or maintain it within acceptable levels by combination therapy with x-ray.

The antimetabolite itself, 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) has been found to exert its antineoplastic effect by inhibiting the formation of thymidylate



1944) reference in the formation of desoxythymineleil (14) (1945) and is  
acting as an antagonist to ribonucleic acid (RNA) synthesis. In the  
presence of this acid, the precursor compound is converted to the nucleoside  
cytosine, thymine, and uracil. Heidelberg (21) has shown that 5-FU can  
take the place of uracil in metabolism without losing its fluoride ion  
which passes for hydrogen and blocks the position of normal methylation  
of the uracil. Thus 5-FU can go through normal metabolism to give a fraudulent  
DNA as well as in some way inhibiting its formation. Thymidinedesoxynucleo-  
phosphate (TDRP) is known to be formed from Uridinedesoxynucleophosphate (UDRP)  
by a methylation reaction catalyzed by thymidylate synthetase in the presence  
of tetrahydrofolic acid. 5-FU is metabolized to form 5-fluoro-2-deoxyuridine  
5-monophosphate which in turn has been discovered to be the substance that  
inhibits thymidylate synthetase activity. This inhibition seems to be the  
crux of the chemotherapeutic action of 5-FU. Combination therapy with 5-FU  
does not seem to cause any additive inhibition of thymidylate synthetase.  
Instead, Heidelberg has evidence that the presence of irradiation causes  
a block in the induced formation of thymidine kinase before this enzyme has  
a chance to rise as it would in normal conditions. This may play some role  
in sensitization but exactly how combination therapy exerts its effect is not  
known. Heidelberg and his co-workers have thoroughly investigated the  
action of 5-FU illustrating the decreased inhibition of thymidylate synthetase  
in resistant tumors, the requirement of ATP for the action of 5-FU, and the  
failure of formate C<sup>14</sup> to be incorporated in DNA thymine in the presence of  
5-fluoro-2-deoxyuridine 5-monophosphate.

Experiments with 5-FU alone have demonstrated variable effects on a  
wide variety of neoplasms. Heidelberg (22) has obtained the following





<u>TUMOR TYPE</u>	<u>MAJOR EFFECT</u>
775 mammary adenocarcinoma	Slightly arresting
Sarcoma 180	Carcinostatic
Sarcoma A-1	Slightly arresting
EO771 Mammary adenocarcinoma	Inhibiting
Flexner-Jobling carcinoma	Initially effective
Walker 256 Carcinoma	Slightly effective
Ehrlich Ascites Carcinoma	Causes regression
L1210 Leukemia	Increased survival time
Yoshida Ascites sarcoma	Increased survival time
Novikoff hepatoma	Increased survival time

Vermond et al (27) investigated the use of combination therapy on transplanted adenocarcinomas in mice using 300r daily for 5 days amounting to a total of 5,100r of x-ray in 23 days and 35 mg/kg of 5-FU for 5 days then 17.5 mg/kg twice weekly for two weeks. This regimen of therapy gave an average survival time in Swiss albino mice with sarcoma of 73.9 and 67.8 days as against an average survival of 25.6 and 18.9 days in the control mice. Eight out of 19 mice showed complete regression of tumor with 5-FU and x-ray whereas x-ray alone merely inhibited tumor growth and caused no regression. 3 mice with an adenocarcinoma seemed to respond to combination 5-FU and x-ray therapy having an average survival of 72.8 and 71.2 days as compared with 42 and 53.8 days in the control groups. Only one of the tumors disappeared completely. These results are difficult to evaluate in terms of the effect on humans. The results in far advanced malignancy have for the greater part, been inconclusive. Generally speaking, 5-FU given alone



mouse cells to cause regression of the tumor in human colon, stomach, breast, colon and ovary (37). The validity of comparing the results obtained with spontaneous and transplanted tumors in mice to human tumors is unknown. Also, the response of human tumors to combination therapy has been noted by Heidelberger (22) (summary), in general, he has observed an appreciable tumor inhibiting effect especially with 5-FU and X-ray. Combination of 5-FU with 190 and 775 mammary adenocarcinomas under therapy of potentiation (22).

In humans, Cold and Bell (14), Winston et al (40), and Olson and Greene (31), have found that 5-FU alone has caused regression in 19.6% of all carcinomas treated with the longest regression noted in carriers of 100% (leucemia and uterine (50.8% experiencing some relief). Bell et al (17) have found that 5-FU is most effective in cancers of the breast, ovary, large intestine, rectum and in hepatomas.

The conventional doses of 5-FU in therapy are 15 mg/kg/day for 5 days by rapid IV injection (not to exceed 1 gm per day) and 7.5 mg/kg every second day until toxicity appears. Although possessing a definite anti-tumor effect 5-FU has a very narrow therapeutic index (Olson et al (31) noting 13% fatal toxicity among their patients). The most common toxicities consist of leukopenia (40% Freugsson & Humphrey in Olson et al (31); nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (37%); leukopenia (70%), anemia and ulceration of the gastric-intestinal tract (31). Delayed effects include alopecia and increased pigmentation of the skin (16). A sudden agranulocytosis can occur after cessation of the treatment (Olson et al (31) and Winston et al (40) noted a high frequency of aplasia after using 5-FU. Recent work has been aimed at methods of alleviating this high toxicity while maintaining the anti-tumor effect. One such method







... 100 mm ... 50% ...  
... of the patients ...  
... in 50% ...  
... eleven patients received ...  
... relief of pain and weight gain of ... 4-6 months ...  
... had pain ... with only temporary regression of ... 2-3 months ...  
... by a recurrence or relapse ... Finally, 9 patients showed no response ...  
... however ... (8) ... with the exception of the results on ... tumors ...  
... an indication for a potentiating effect with combination therapy on solid  
tumors (8) ... Somewhat unusual results were found by Allaire et al (11) when  
they reported that objective improvement was noted with combined therapy  
(conventional doses of 5-FU and 2000r x-ray over 2-4 weeks) on tumors of the  
pancreas, stomach and bronchus. They obtained only promising results on  
neoplasms of the gastrointestinal tract and lungs. Cornell et al (7) found  
that combination of 5-FU and x-ray only caused arrested growth of tumors ...  
... stable course followed by further growth instead of regression. On the  
other hand, Foye et al (10) claim that concomitant use of 5-FU (conventional  
dose) and local irradiation (2000r) gave a greater degree and higher incidence  
of tumor regression than is obtainable with either mode of therapy alone.  
The effects noted also exceed those that would be expected on the basis of  
additivity alone (10). Foye (10) thus concludes that he has observed a  
synergistic effect with combined therapy. Recently, however, von Esen  
Kluger and Calabresi (25) in a controlled study in humans, failed to  
demonstrate a significant alteration in the response of multiple metastatic  
tumors to x-ray by the addition of 5-FU.









## MATERIAL AND METHODS

A mammary adenocarcinoma which arose spontaneously in our C<sub>3</sub>H/101 and had been subcultured for many generations, was transplanted into the left thigh of 215 mice. 60% of these mice were C<sub>3</sub>H/CCOL and the remainder C<sub>3</sub>H/JAX. All but 42 were males. In general, the mice were 4-6 months old at the start of the experiment.

A mouse carrying the tumor was sacrificed without anesthesia, the tumor being removed and minced under saline. Fifty C<sub>3</sub>H mice were then inoculated with minced tumor by a size 13 trocar in the left thigh. About 10-12 days after transplantation, 42 of the 50 mice whose tumors were palpably measurable were selected. Only tumors of fairly uniform size (3-9 mm average diameter) were used in order to reduce bias. These 42 mice were then assigned randomly to 7 groups of about 6 animals each.

X-ray treatment was carried out in 1/4" thick boxes with the animal's 1 ft leg held out by a string and placed directly under the 1.5 cm. zone. No anesthesia was used.

With day "0 as the day of initiation of treatment, all tumors were measured on the following fixed days: #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 19, 26, 33, 40. Tumor volume was calculated by multiplying the three dimensions together, as measured by a standard caliper, and multiplying this figure by .524. Most of the treated mice and all of the untreated ones died of metastasis within this 40 day observation period. For the duration of the period of observation, the various groups were assigned randomly to several cages to avoid the cage effect as described by Daventon (32). In



therefore, discussion of the final results is limited since the population of any one case was reduced.

Therapy, as mentioned, consisted of both x-irradiation and 5-fluorouracil. One intraperitoneal injection of 125 mg/kg of 5-fluorouracil ( $LD_{10}$ ) as determined by preliminary dose-response studies but an  $LD_{10}$  in 20% (body weight) was used throughout. This was an effective dose with the highest acceptable mortality rate. The x-ray dose chosen (based on prior experiments) was one total treatment of 5000r, in  $ED_0$  for long-term regression of T<sub>1</sub> tumors. These doses were selected to insure that any additive or enhanced effects would not be masked. The machine was set at 250Kv, 15 ma, with a 2 mm Al filter. The cone length was 3 cm and the distance from the cone to the target was negligible. Victoreen readings of the 10001 chamber lined for one minute of machine output averaged about 900r/min. corrected.

The treatment groups received the following regimen:

Group I - received total x-ray dose of 5000r.

Group II - received an intra-peritoneal injection of 5-FU dose - 125 mg/kg ( $LD_{10}$ ).

Group III - received the injection of 5-FU and 15 minutes later received 5000r x-ray.

Group IV - received the injection of 5-FU and 2 hours later received 5000r x-ray.

Group V - received the injection of 5-FU and 24 hours later received 5000r x-ray.

Group VI - received 5000r x-ray and 24 hours later received the injection of 5-FU.

Group VII - served as the control and received no treatment.



Since the above 17-day period was regarded as sufficient time and was considered to be a reasonable experiment to run. The total study was composed of 5 such identical experiments, each containing the same 7 treatment groups (total of 215 mice) outlined above, so as to help avoid chance events and spurious results distorting the final results. In order to minimize the influence of host factors, only the test of detection in the size of tumors was used in comparing the several treatment modules in a model system, little emphasis being placed on cure or survival rates. The latter was regarded, however.





## RESULTS

Emphasis is placed on the progression of tumor volume following different modes of therapy. Other parameters followed included tumor, host and animal status.

The variability of response of the individual mice in a group was greater than the differences between groups. The mice which died early were considered dead by sacrifice.

In analysis, averages were made of all the data in each of the 7 groups for each run, and also corresponding groups from other runs were plotted for comparison. In Figure 1, the tumor volume of the groups receiving 5-FU alone (Group I) are plotted, the number of surviving mice being indicated by a number above each point on the graph. It should be noted at this point that Run 5 was the only run employing female  $F_3$  mice. Sex, however, did not appear to be a factor affecting the results. The groups with 5-FU alone (Groups II) (figure 2), with the exception of one mouse, show no response in tumor volume during therapy. Giving the drug 15 minutes prior to x-ray therapy (Group III) (see figure 3) seems to have caused an inhibition of tumor growth after 3 days lasting until about the fifteenth day. At this point, growth of the tumor invariably resumed. The results of the groups receiving 5-FU 4 hours prior to x-ray (Group IV) (See figure 4) are similar to Group III. There is inhibition in tumor growth and even some regression of tumor followed by regrowth of the tumor in greater than 75% of the remaining mice. The groups receiving 5-FU 24 hours prior to x-ray (Group V) (See figure 5) resemble Group IV with the exception of the existence of a few greater extent



in tumor size. In the group receiving x-ray 20 hour prior to 5-FU (Group VI) (See figure 6), there are again quite variable but not significant differences from those of the other combined treatment groups. The tumor of the controls (Group VII) (figure 7) grow quite rapidly as is expected. One mouse in Run 3 had an unusually long survival, dying only after a very large tumor had grown.

For further consolidation of the results, all of the tumor volumes in each treatment group, were averaged together and plotted as one curve (figure 8). The general trend for each group is clearly illustrated, but one must be mindful that the fewer the surviving mice, the less representative are the average tumor sizes. Standard errors of the mean were calculated at each day of observation and are represented on separate graphs for each treatment group (figures 9-15). The standard errors, based only on the surviving animals, became unreliable after day 19 because of attenuation of the colony due to tumor deaths. The standard error for each group at day 19 is recorded on the composite graph (figure 8). The number of survivors in each treatment group at fixed days after treatment is shown in Table I.

Up to the 19th day, there is no statistically significant difference between the group receiving x-ray alone (Group I) and any of the combination therapy groups (Groups III-VI). After the 19th day, a general increase in average tumor volume is noted in all of the combination therapy groups, whereas a slight decrease is seen in the group with x-ray alone (Group I). This late difference cannot be subjected to statistical analysis due to the small number of survivors. Likewise, there is little difference between the control group (Group VII) and the group receiving chemotherapy alone (Group II). The last point on the latter curve represents only one mouse whose tumor had



**TABLE I**  
**SURVIVORS**

Day	0	5	9	15	19	26	33	40
<b>Group I</b> <b>X-ray - 5000 r</b>	30	30	30	30	28	24	16	14
<b>Group II</b> <b>S-FU</b>	31	31	25	24	21	12	3	1
<b>Group III</b> <b>S-FU 15 Min.</b> <b>Prior to 5000 r</b>	31	31	24	24	24	22	15	9
<b>Group IV</b> <b>S-FU 3 Hrs.</b> <b>Prior to 5000 r</b>	32	32	27	26	25	19	15	9
<b>Group V</b> <b>S-FU 24 Hrs.</b> <b>Prior to 5000 r</b>	31	31	25	24	24	23	15	8
<b>Group VI</b> <b>S-FU 24 Hrs.</b> <b>After 5000 r</b>	30	28	23	21	19	16	10	9
<b>Group VII</b> <b>Control</b>	29	29	29	21	13	2	2	1





continuously increased in size after chemotherapy alone until the 19th day and then began to regress until the death of the mouse. Therefore, this point should be disregarded. This is the only incidence of tumor regression in either of these 2 groups (II or VII). Both of these groups, however, differ significantly from all those receiving x-ray. It is noteworthy that in no group was the final average tumor volume smaller than the starting average tumor volumes, although the group with x-ray alone (Group I) approached this. (Figures 9-15 show the average tumor sizes of each group separately with the standard errors included).

Since we were working with transplanted tumors, the most meaningful data is represented by the regression and growth rates. (Host factors influence tumor 'cures'). However, Tables 2a and 2b are included to show detailed data on permanent regression of the primary tumor and complete regression followed by recurrence. The causes of death following treatment are listed in Tables 3a and 3b. Most mice died of metastases from the implanted tumor including those that obtained temporary 'cures' at the original tumor-site (tumor no longer palpable or observable). The mice listed as 'permanent regression' had no evidence of original tumor or metastasis when sacrificed 4-5 months after the 40 day observation period. The x-ray dose (5000r) given to Group I gave a temporary local cure of 40% ( $ED_{40}$  for regression of local tumor followed by recurrence). This same degree of effectiveness was not noted in any of the other groups receiving 5-FU in addition to the same x-ray dose. In fact, the percentage of temporary complete regression of local tumor ranged from a low of only 25% in one of the combination groups to a high of 36% in one of the other combination groups, the difference between groups not being significant. An  $ED_0$  for permanent regression of local tumor was obtained





**TABLE 2A**  
**PERMANENT REGRESSIONS**

Runs	1	2	3	4	5	Total
<b>I</b> 5000r X-ray	0/6	0/6	0/6	1/6	1/6	2/30
<b>II</b> 5-FU	0/7	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/31
<b>III</b> 5-FU 15 Min. Prior to 5000r	2/6	0/6	0/7	0/6	1/6	3/31
<b>IV</b> 5-FU 3 Hrs. Prior to 5000r	1/7	0/7	0/7	0/6	1/6	2/33
<b>V</b> 5-FU 24 Hrs. Prior to 5000r	1/6	0/6	0/7	1/6	0/6	2/31
<b>VI</b> 5-FU 24 Hrs. After 5000r	0/6	0/6	1/6	1/6	2/6	4/30
<b>VII</b> Control	0/3	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/29



TABLE 2B

COMPLETE REGRESSION FOLLOWED BY RECURRENCE

Runs	1	2	3	4	5	Total
I 5000r X-ray	1/6	2/6	4/6	4/6	1/6	12/30
II 5-FU	0/7	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/31
III 5-FU 15 Min. Prior to 5000r	2/6	0/6	5/7	0/6	1/6	8/31
IV 5-FU 3 Hrs. Prior to 5000r	2/7	0/7	4/7	2/6	2/6	10/33
V 5-FU 24 Hrs. Prior to 5000r	0/6	0/6	5/7	3/6	1/6	9/31
VI 5-FU 24 Hrs. After 5000r	2/6	0/6	4/6	1/6	1/6	8/30
VII Control	0/5	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/29





TABLE 3A  
CAUSE OF DEATH

Run	Original Tumor						Metastases					
	1	2	3	4	5	Total	1	2	3	4	5	Total
I 5000r X-ray	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/30	5/6	6/6	6/6	5/6	5/6	27/30
II 5-FU	0/7	0/6	2/6	0/6	0/6	2/31	5/7	6/6	3/6	3/6	5/6	22/31
III 5-FU 15 Min. Prior to 5000r	0/6	0/6	0/7	0/6	0/6	0/31	3/6	5/6	7/7	2/6	4/6	21/31
IV 5-FU 3 Hrs. Prior to 5000r	0/7	0/7	0/7	0/6	0/6	0/33	4/7	5/7	5/7	3/6	5/6	22/33
V 5-FU 24 Hrs. Prior to 5000r	0/6	0/6	0/7	0/6	0/6	0/31	2/6	5/6	7/7	4/6	4/6	22/31
VI 5-FU 24 Hrs. After 5000r	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/30	3/6	5/6	5/6	2/6	2/6	17/30
VII Control	2/5	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	2/29	3/5	6/6	6/6	6/6	6/6	27/29



TABLE 3B  
CAUSE OF DEATH

Run	Drug Toxicity						Other (Pneumonia, Hepatitis, Other Infections)					
	1	2	3	4	5	Total	1	2	3	4	5	Total
I 5000r X-ray	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/30	1/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	1/30
II 5-FU	2/7	0/6	1/6	2/6	1/6	6/31	0/7	0/6	0/6	1/6	0/6	1/31
III 5-FU 15 Min. Prior to 5000r	1/6	1/6	0/7	4/6	1/6	7/31	1/6	0/6	0/7	0/6	0/6	1/31
IV 5-FU 3 Hrs. Prior to 5000r	1/7	2/7	2/7	2/6	0/6	7/33	1/7	0/7	0/7	1/6	1/6	3/33
V 5-FU 24 Hrs. Prior to 5000r	3/6	1/6	0/7	1/6	2/6	7/31	0/6	0/6	0/7	0/6	0/6	0/31
VI 5-FU 24 Hrs. After 5000r	3/6	1/6	0/6	2/6	1/6	7/30	0/6	0/6	0/6	1/6	1/6	2/30
VII Control	0/5	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/29	0/5	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/6	0/29





with 500r. That is to say, permanent cure occurred in 13 or 25% of all the mice. No cures occurred in the mice treated with drug alone. The rest of the mice, i.e. those that were not cured or did not die of metastases, (the large majority of which were in the combined therapy groups) died in the course of the experiment from a side reaction of therapy. The dose of 5-FU given by itself was a  $LD_{10}$  under experimental conditions as indicated by the toxicity found in Group II (5-FU alone). The other groups receiving 5-FU (the combined therapy groups) had a slightly higher incidence of toxicity. In fact, there was an average of 23-30% fatal toxicities with combined therapy as against no such cases with x-ray alone. The miscellaneous causes of death were few and included events such as injection damage and infections that were present in the colony at the time.



## Discussion

The above results revealed that not only did the timing of administration of therapy fail to play an important role, but also no combination regimen seemed to give greater antineoplastic effect than was obtained with x-ray therapy alone. The lack of potentiation of radiation by 5-FU in these experiments correlate with the clinical reports of von Eschen and coworkers (38). This study, using x-ray alone, 5-FU alone, and combined therapy on multiple metastatic tumors within individual patients, failed to demonstrate a significant alteration of response of tumor to radiation by the addition of 5-FU.

There was a wide range in degree of effectiveness among the mice responding to therapy. Some mice did not respond at all in a therapy schedule that in other mice would cause a disappearance of the original tumor. Treatment in some was sufficient only to cause temporary inhibition in tumor growth followed by resumption of the previous growth rate; in others, regression in size or even complete disappearance was followed by regrowth. In each case, it appeared as though the administered therapy regimen was only partially carcinolytic, the remaining viable cells accounting for the following regrowth. In some cases, these remaining cancer cells did not apparently have an opportunity to regrow since fatal metastases had already taken place.

There is the possibility that the administration of 5-FU even 24 hours prior to x-ray was inadequate time for full sensitization. Yet Sogah (3) has reported obtaining enhanced x-ray effects on HeLa cells when 5-FU was added only 4 hours prior to x-ray. Ogilvie (36), on the other hand, has noted that the sensitizing effects of purine and pyrimidine nucleosides



response appears to be greatest approximately 6 days after drug exposure. It, however, has mixed results with 5-FU and TNU which is incorporated into the DNA. In our instance, nevertheless, there was not even the slightest indication of a minimal sensitizing effect by the drug in a 24-hour period. A possibility exists that either the drug or the x-ray dose first might impede rather than enhance the other's effect. Such an effect of 5-FU and irradiation depends to a large degree on a rapid and rapid growing tumor. Administration of either drug or x-ray first could delay the other sufficiently so as to diminish the effect of the other treatment. Following this finding, other investigators have found enhanced effects of tumor tumors with combination therapy. Meltzer (27) reported enhanced effects of x-rays with both carbons and antihistamines. His results, however, are not considered, nor do they support the evidence for tumor sensitization as set forth by Scheniger et al (28).

Since no differences in any of the groups with combination treatment were found, the lack of an optimum time-sequence of administration is not indicated. The average tumor volumes of all the mice receiving any of the combined treatments remained within one standard error of each other. This cannot be taken to mean that there is no such optimum, but there was no such indication here.

Since transplanted tumors have been used, and such indications have been placed on the cure, permanent or temporary, obtained. The effect of various host factors on transplanted tumors have been known to play an important role in determining the effectiveness of cure of a certain mode of therapy. But the more, tumors that have been transplanted in and attain size and form of form to become much more amenable to cure. The reasons for this are not clear but these factors are not involved to the same degree in rate of decrease of tumor size. This delayed response is thus a more reliable indication of









number of an unpublished finding. Grant (12) has cited the  $LD_{50}$  of 5-fluorouracil as being 1.0 mg/kg. When used with x-ray therapy, it caused higher rate of toxicity, but unlike the results here, he also obtained evidence for synergism of therapeutic effect. (Drug toxicities listed in Table 2)

This experiment has been chosen as a model for other possible time sequence studies of combination drug and radiotherapy on tumors. Other time sequences including use of fractionated x-ray doses and other drugs such as 5-TMP and 5-IUDP should be investigated. In addition, it would be profitable to attempt studies to synchronize tumor cells to 5-FU, i.e. halt cells at sensitive part of their cycle with 5-FU, then using fractionated doses of x-ray doses to obtain greater therapeutic effect.



# SUMMARY

The effect of combination 5-FU and radiotherapy was studied by measuring the size of a transplanted adenocarcinoma in  $C_{3}H$  mice at test five days after various sequences of drug and irradiation. Least-toxic effective doses of 5-FU (125 mg/kg by single I.P. injection, an  $ED_{50}$ ) and x-ray (5000r locally, an  $ED_{50}$  for permanent regression of local tumor) were used. The seven treatment groups were: (I) x-ray alone; (II) drug alone; (III) drug 15 mins. prior to x-ray; (IV) drug 3 hours prior to x-ray; (V) drug 24 hours prior to x-ray; (VI) x-ray 24 hours prior to drug; (VII) no treatment. The total study was divided into five smaller and identical experiments, with mice being randomly assigned to cages after thorough grooming to avoid chance events and spurious findings biasing the total results.

No significant difference was noted between those receiving x-ray alone and any other combination of x-ray and drug. Furthermore, there was no slight difference in growth rate between the controls and the mice receiving drug alone. Greater variation in response was noted within each group than between the groups.



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TO: THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

FROM: DR. J. H. DILLON  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

SUBJECT: *Measurement of the rate of reaction between  
nitric oxide and carbon monoxide at low pressures*

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of a report  
describing the results of a study of the reaction between  
nitric oxide and carbon monoxide at low pressures.

The report is entitled "The reaction between nitric oxide  
and carbon monoxide at low pressures" and is numbered  
as Report No. 1000.

The study was carried out in the Department of Chemistry,  
University of Chicago, and was supported by the National  
Science Foundation.

Very truly yours,  
J. H. DILLON  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Chicago

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## APPENDIX





GROUP I - X-RAY ALONE 5000R - AVERAGE OF EACH RUN  
TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT

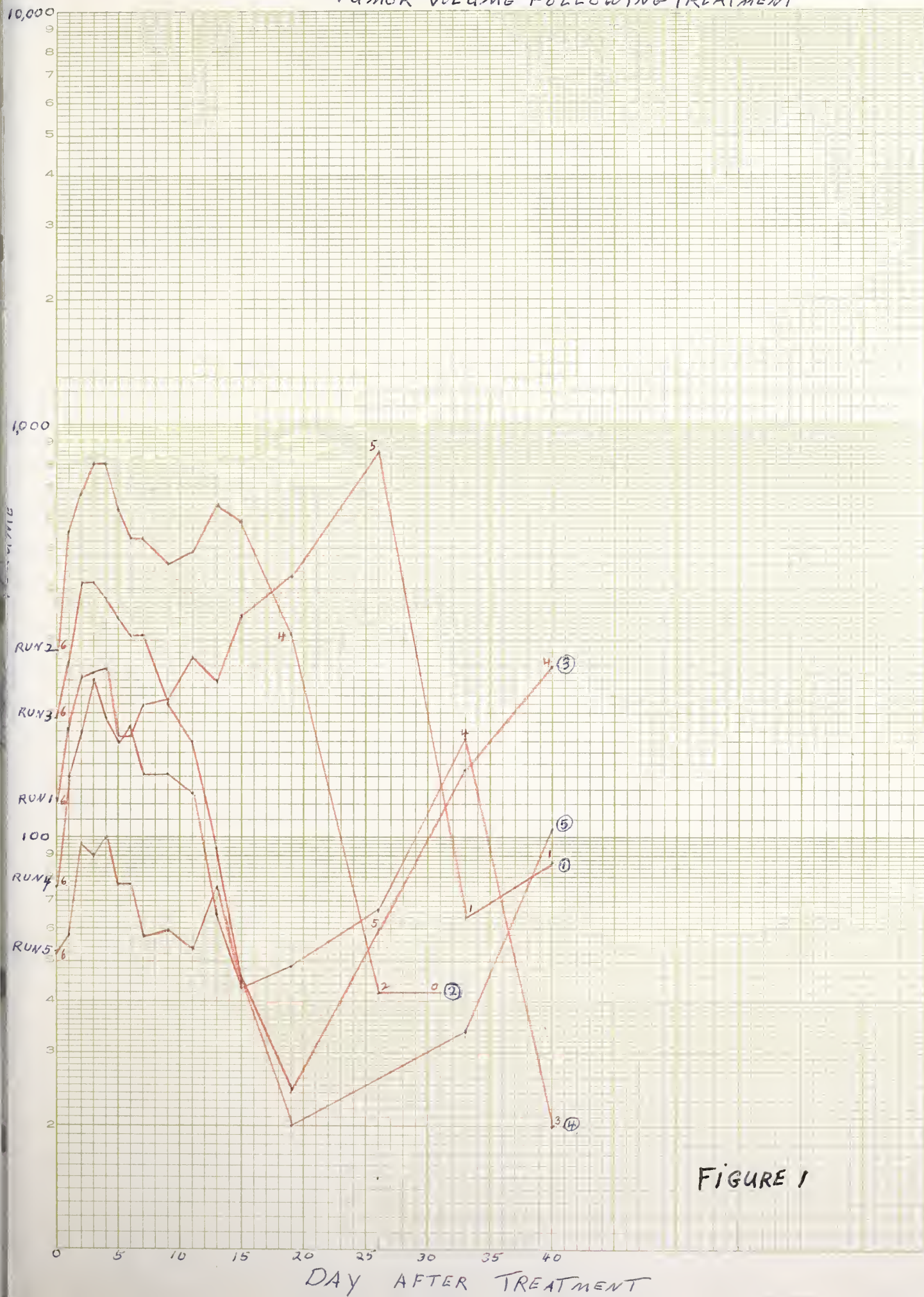


FIGURE 1

GROUP I - X-RAY ALONE - AVERAGE OF EACH RUN  
TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT



FIGURE 1



GROUP II-5FU ALONE (125mg/KG = 5LD<sub>01</sub>) AVERAGE OF EACH RUN

TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT

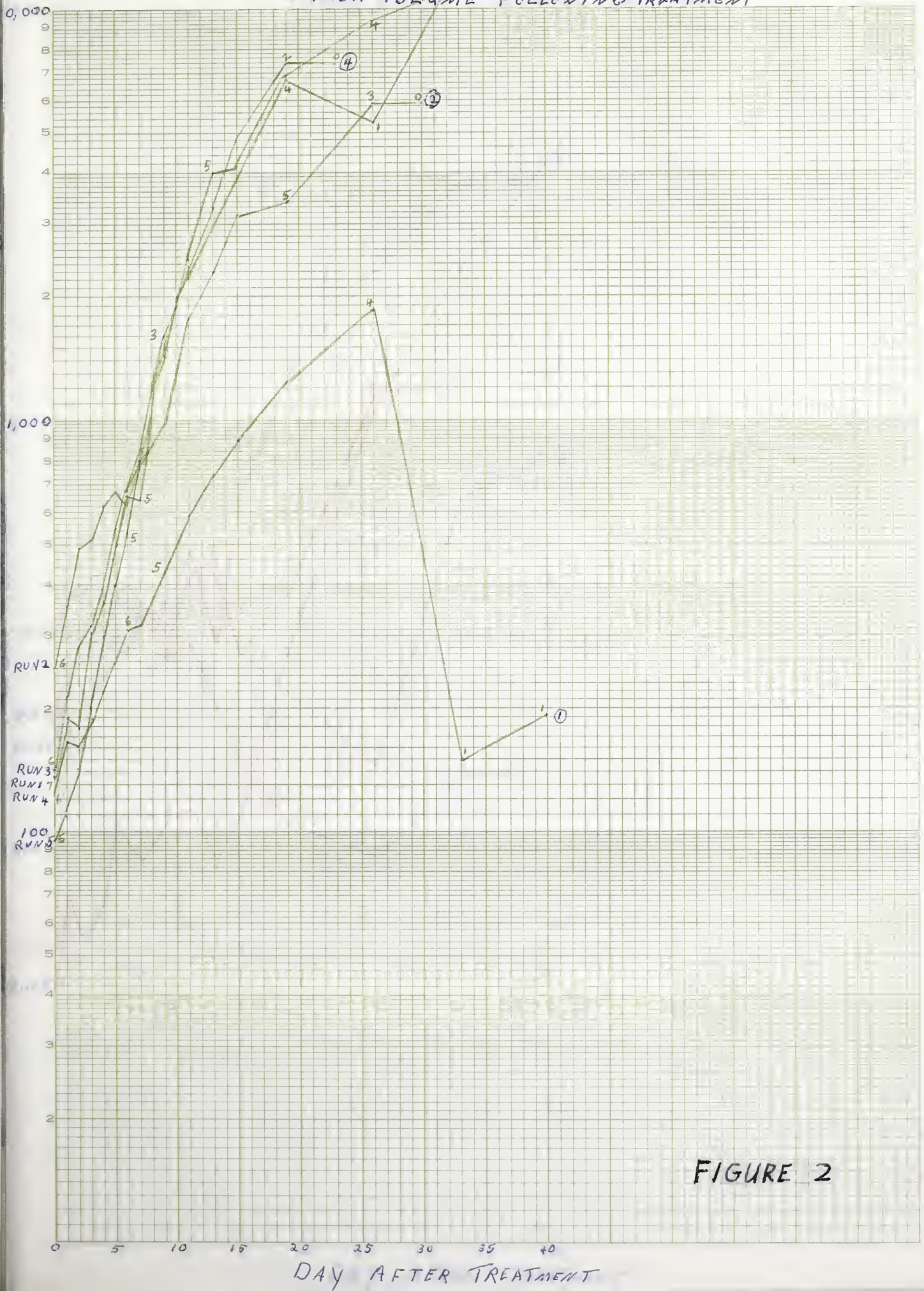


FIGURE 2

Tumor Volume Following Treatment

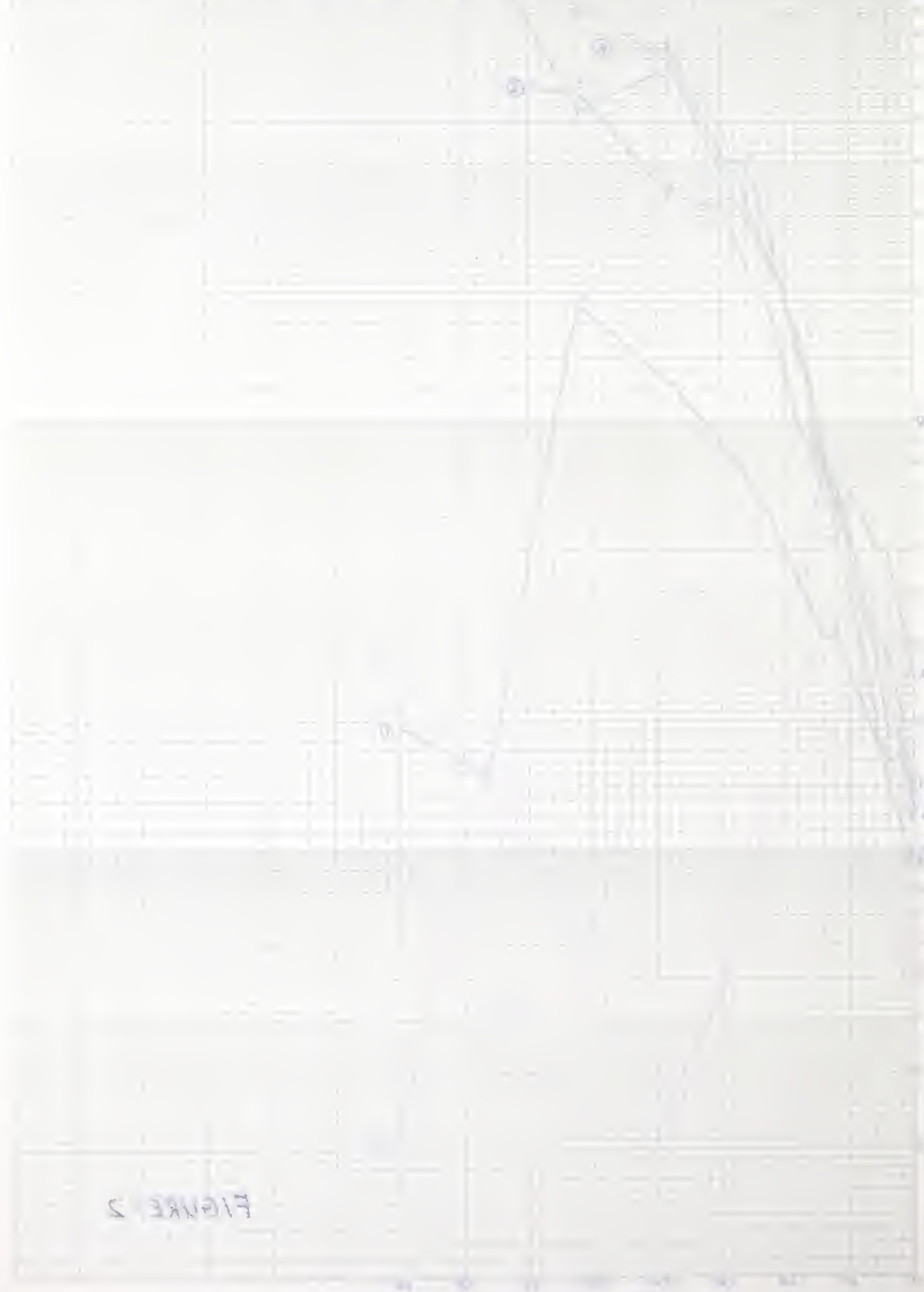


FIGURE 2



# GROUP III - 5FU - 15 MIN. BEFORE X-RAY - AVERAGE OF EACH RUN

## TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT

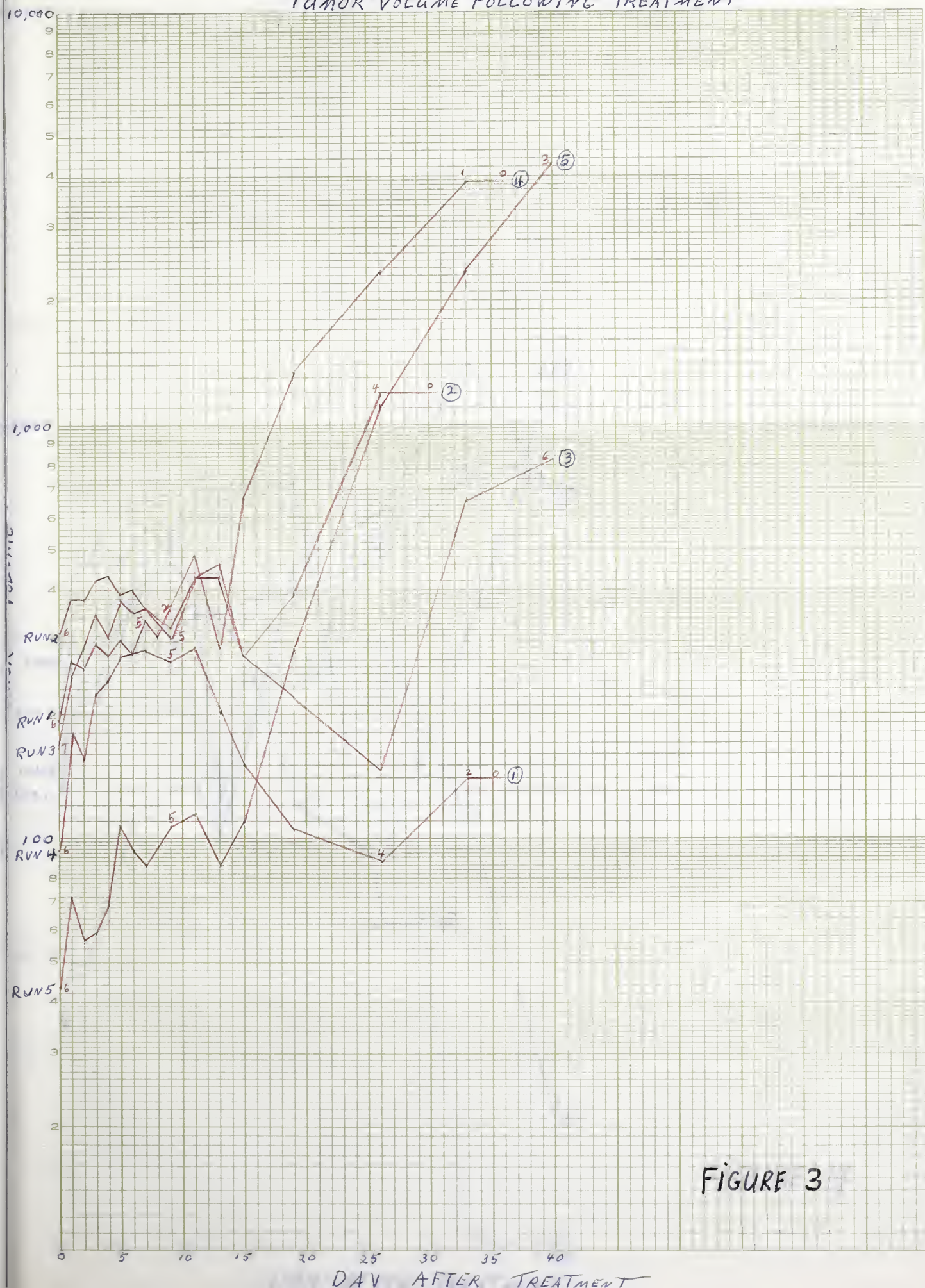


FIGURE 3



Figure 3



# GROUP IV - 5FU - 3 HRS. BEFORE X-RAY - AVERAGE OF EACH RUN

TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT

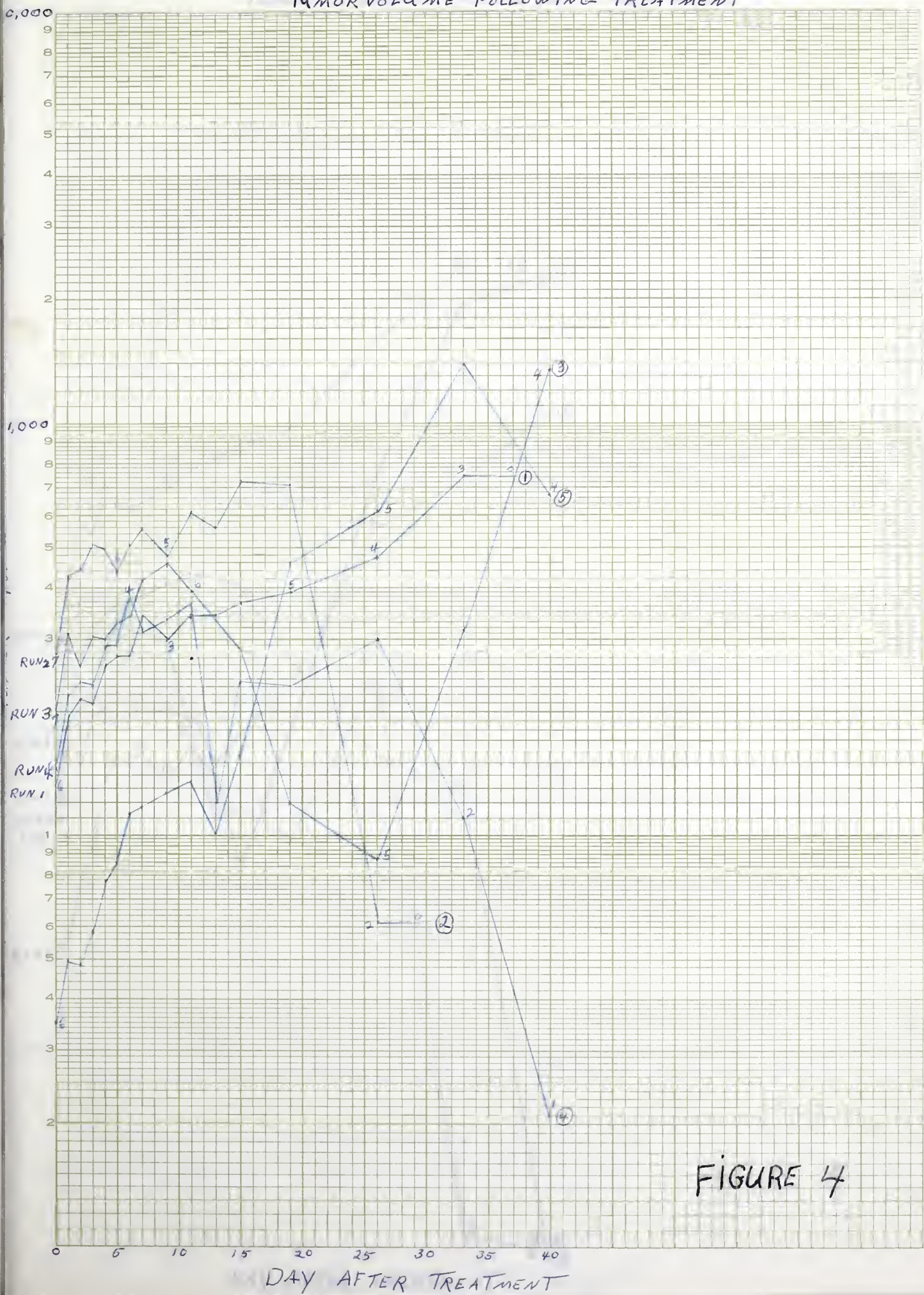


FIGURE 4

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



FIGURE 1



# GROUP V- 5 FU-24 HRS. BEFORE X-RAY-AVERAGE OF EACH RUN

TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT

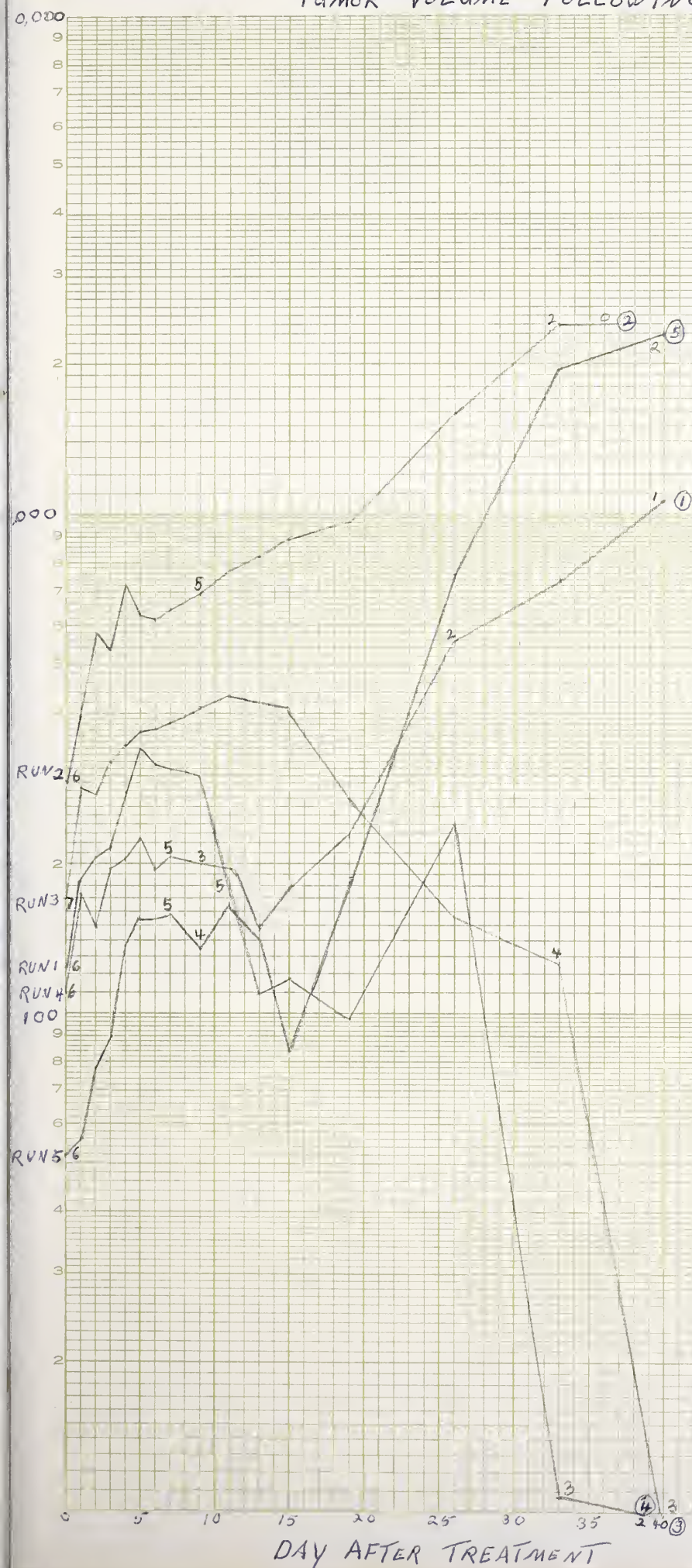


FIGURE 5





# GROUP VI - X-RAY - 24 HRS. BEFORE 5FU - AVERAGE OF EACH RUN

TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT

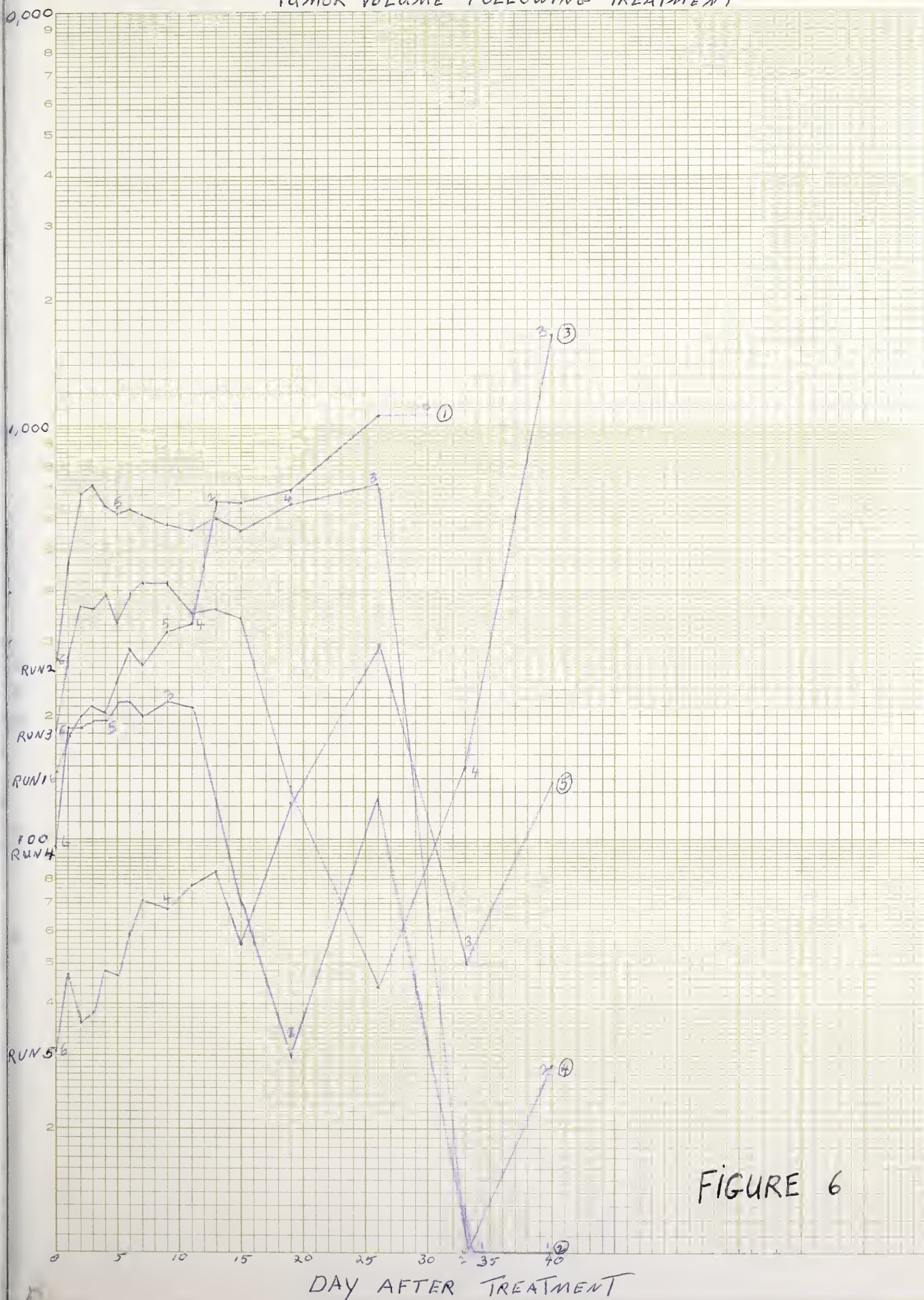


FIGURE 6



FIGURE 61



# GROUP VII - CONTROL - AVERAGE OF EACH RUN

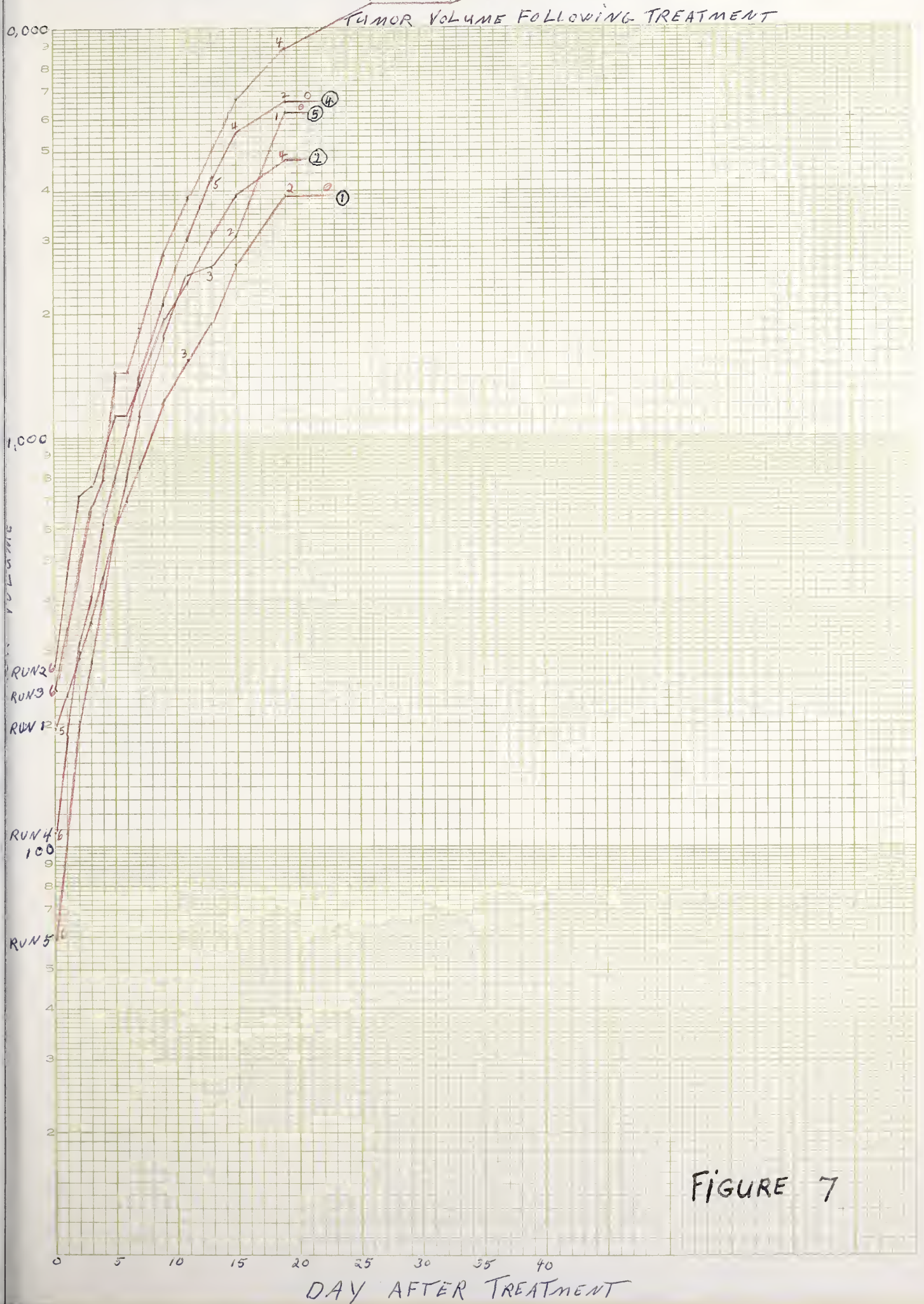


FIGURE 7





# FIGURE 8 AVERAGE VOLUMES OF EACH GROUP

TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT

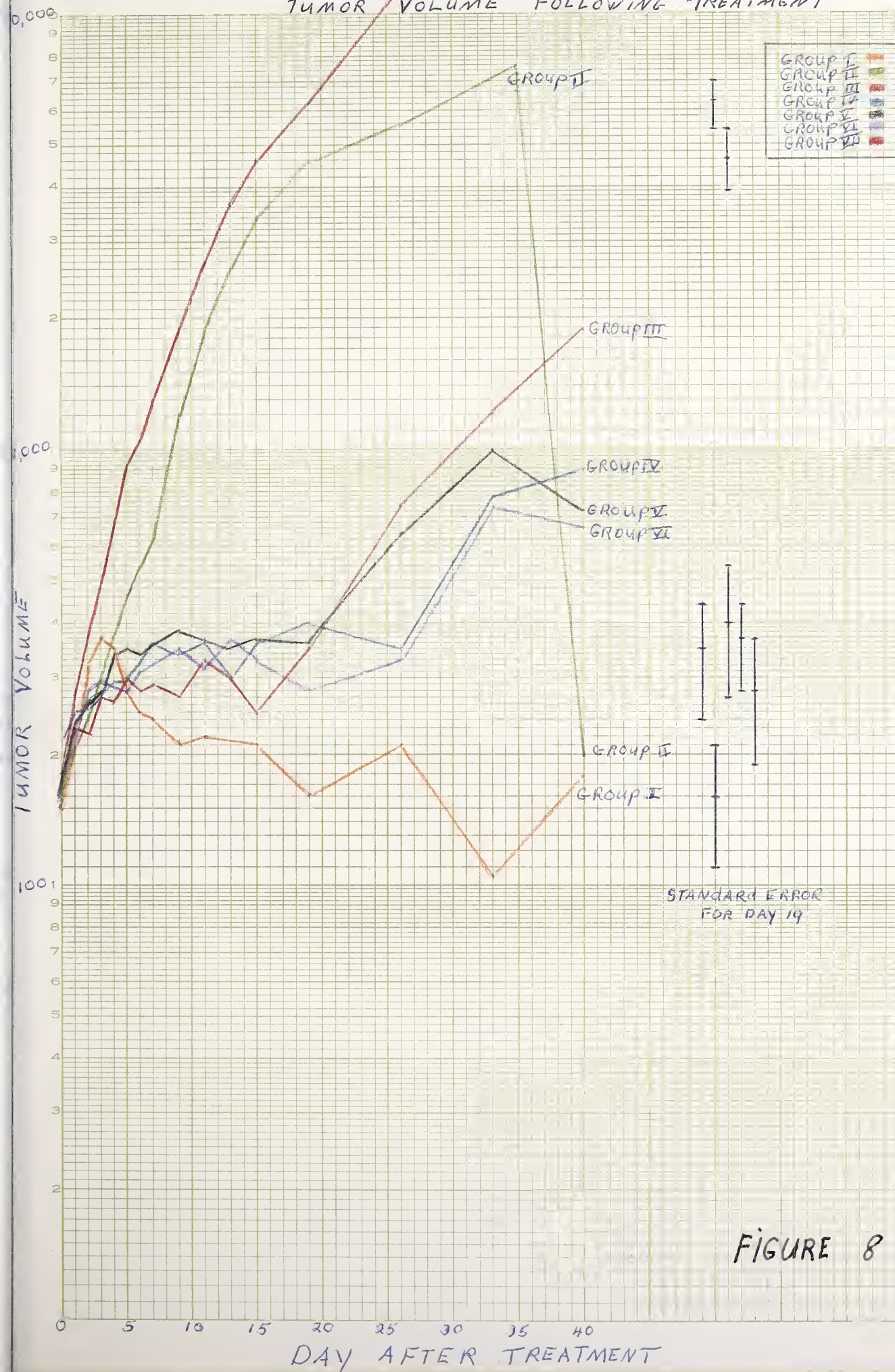


FIGURE 8

STATION  
10000  
10000  
10000





# FIGURE 9 - GROUP I - X-RAY ALONE - 5000R

TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT



FIGURE 9





FIGURE 10 - GROUP II - 5FU ALONE (125mg/kg LD<sub>19</sub>)

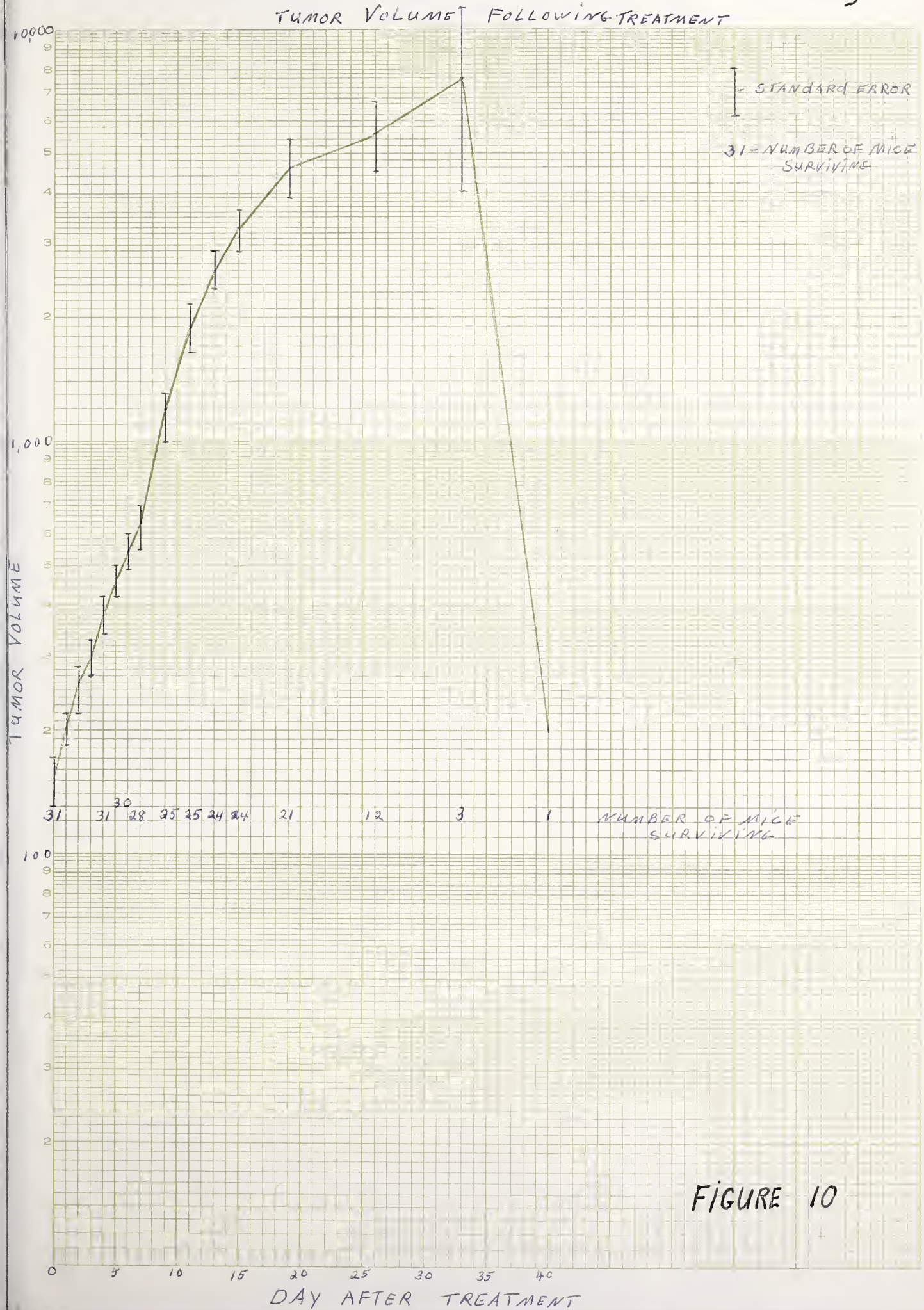


FIGURE 10





# FIGURE 11 - GROUP III - 5FU 15 MIN BEFORE X-RAY

## TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT

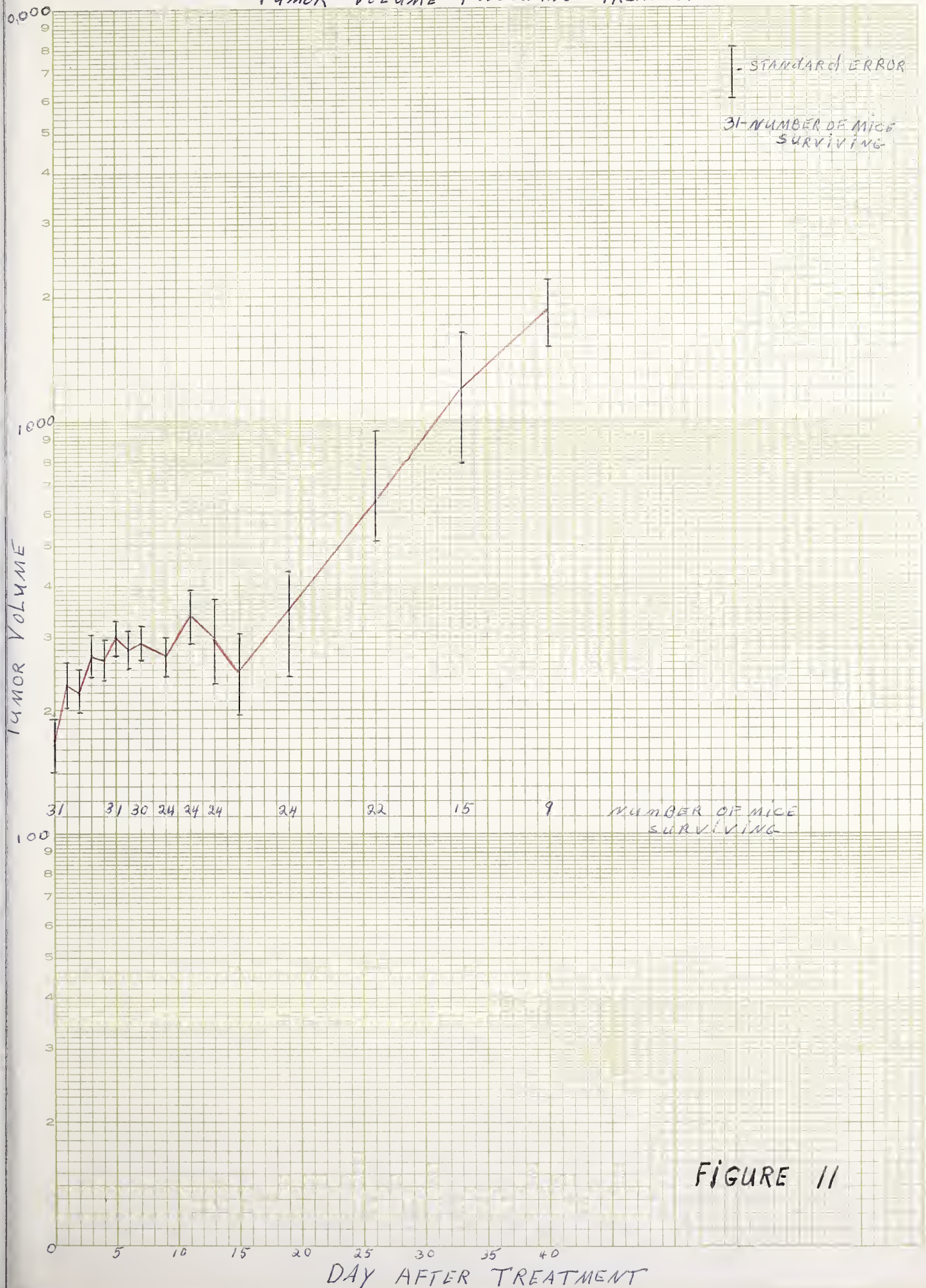


FIGURE 11





# FIGURE 12 - GROUP IV 5FU 3HRS. BEFORE X-RAY

TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT

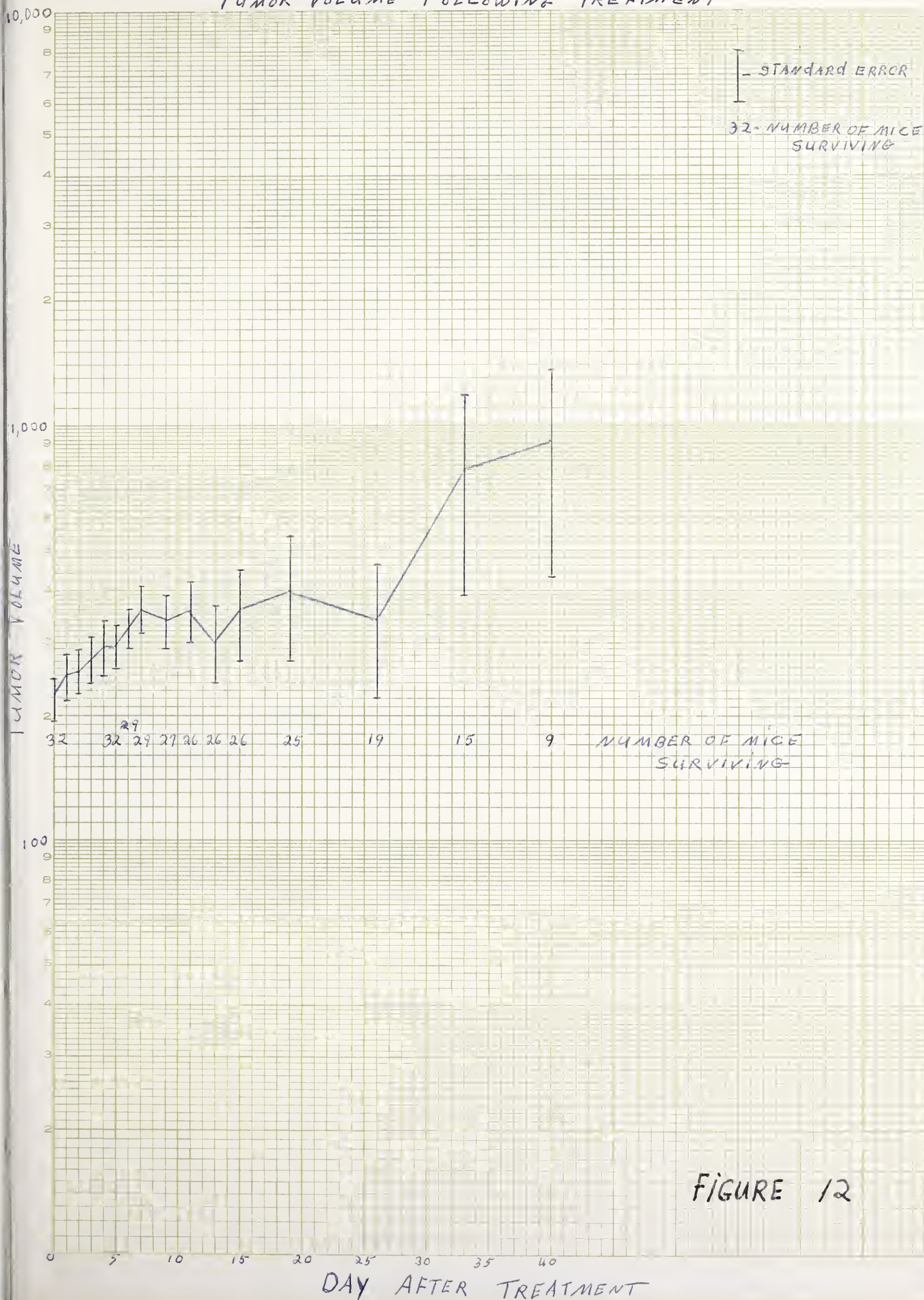


FIGURE 12





FIGURE 13 - GROUP I 5FU 24 HRS. BEFORE X-RAY

TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT

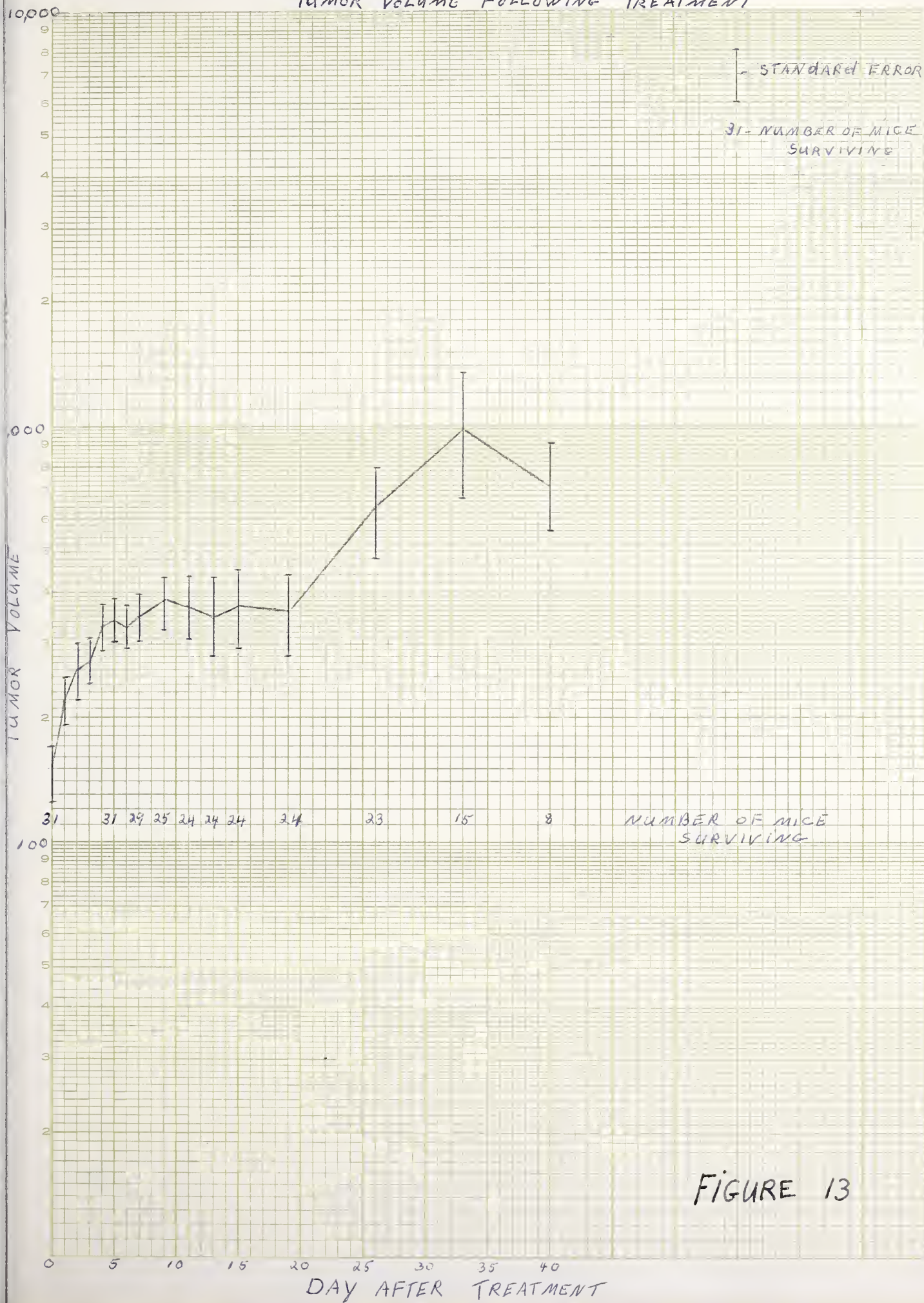


FIGURE 13





# FIGURE 14 - GROUP VI X-RAY 24 HRS. BEFORE 5FU

TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT

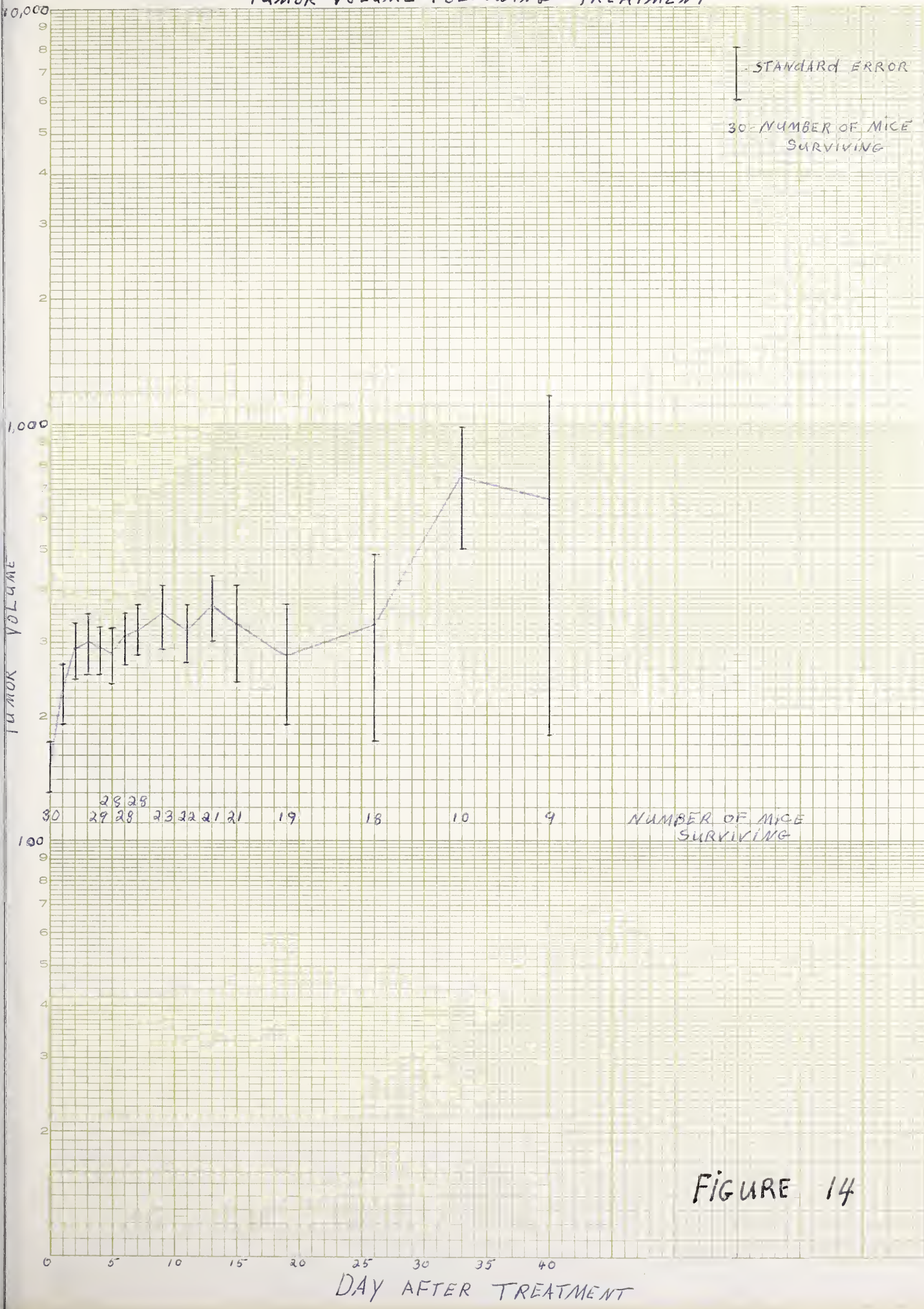


FIGURE 14





# FIGURE 15- GROUP VII - CONTROL

TUMOR VOLUME FOLLOWING TREATMENT

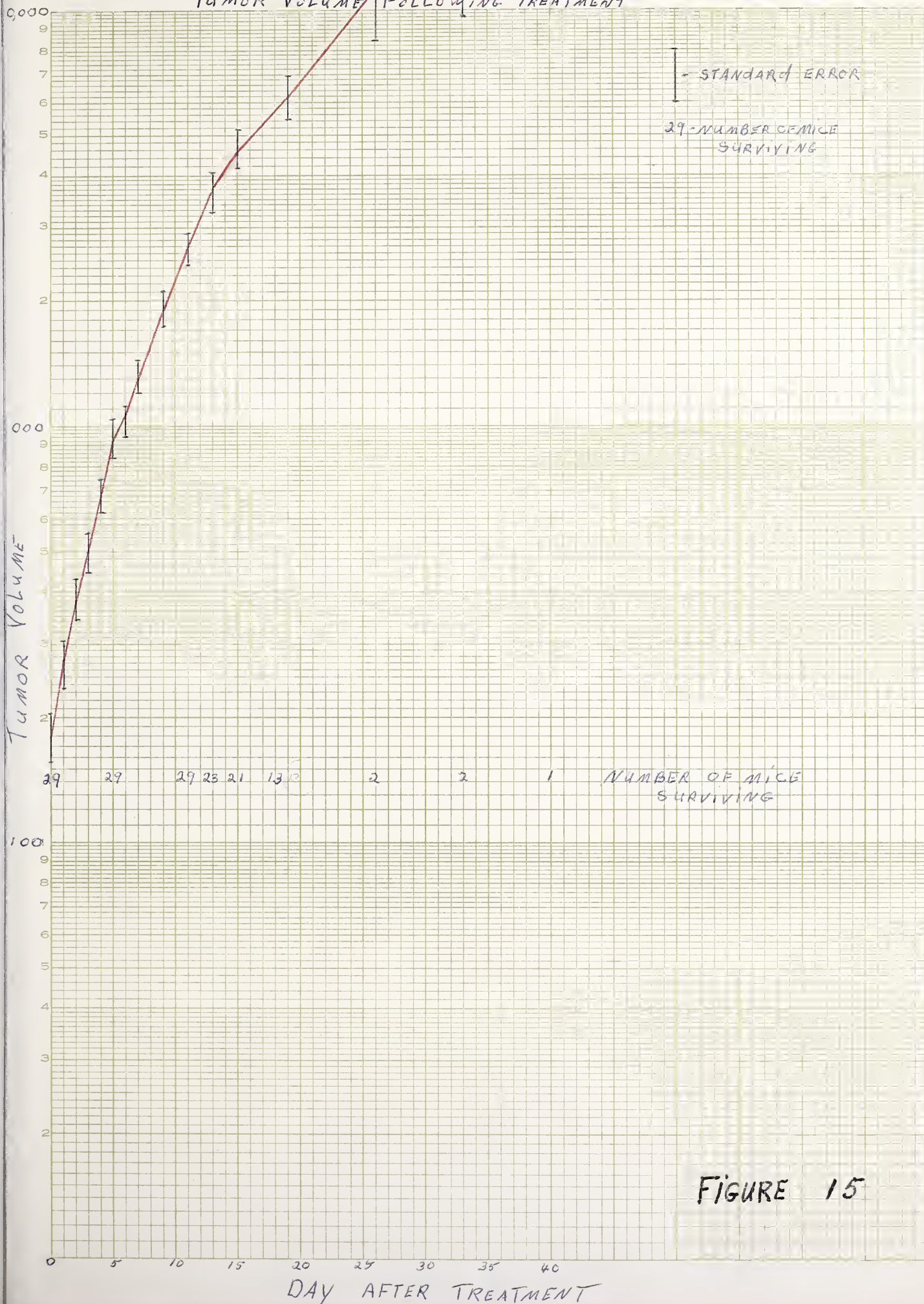


FIGURE 15

TIME IN MINUTES

PERCENTAGE OF ...

...

...

...

...















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